

KentuckyHistoricalSociety

Kentucky Military History Museum (KMHM)
Committee Meeting
July 7, 2010
Old State Arsenal
Frankfort, KY

Minutes

Members present: Verna Fairchild, Marty Pinkston, Bobby Hazen, Steve Bullard, Edward Coffman, Jim Turpin, Judy Green-Baker, Clyde Green, and Evan Miller. Kent Whitworth, Trevor Jones, Stuart Sanders, Tony Curtis, and Bill Bright represented the Kentucky Historical Society (KHS). Steve Bolton, Brian DeMers, Tom Fugate, and Roger Stapleton were guests of the committee.

Verna Fairchild called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the March 2010 meeting as written.

Introduction of Trevor Jones

Kent Whitworth introduced Mr. Trevor Jones. Jones serves as the Director of Museum Collections and Exhibitions (MC&E). He comes to KHS from the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University where he served as Curator. Prior to Western Carolina University, Jones was curator at Neville Public Museum in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Verna Fairchild offered her appreciation to Kent and the KHS staff on maintaining direction during these hard economic times. Fairchild also noted the strong leadership of the KHS Director and the KHS Executive Board.

Status of Arsenal Restoration Project

Architect Selection

Bill Bright announced that the architectural firm John Milner Associates had been selected to work on the restoration project. This is the same firm that conducted the KMHM Feasibility Study. The selection was made by Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and Department of Finance. The first two phases on the project will address structural and life safety issues. The projects currently in planning are the addition on a fire suppression system, the replacement of the staircase, and the addition of reinforcing steel to raise the load limit for the second floor. A security system upgrade and window shading are also being discussed.

Proposed Schedule

A meeting to review the scope of the project will occur on July 29, 2010. Construction documents will be produced by August 30, 2010. The current schedule calls for the bids to be let on September 15, 2010. The contract will be awarded no later than September 23, 2010.

Report on Exhibitions

Kentucky Military Treasures Gallery Show Rotation

Trevor Jones announced that textiles in the *Kentucky Military Treasures* exhibit rotated yesterday. The exhibition will have one more artifact rotation before being prepared to move to the Arsenal.

Arsenal Exhibition Installation

Trevor Jones stated that KHS anticipates installing portions of the exhibition in the first floor of the Arsenal in April 2011. This schedule will be dependent on the completion of construction. Space has to be first made safe for the public. Next it will need to be made artifact friendly. Windows security and UV blocking are key issues. KHS wants the building configuration to be as flexible as possible. *Military Treasures* will not be permanently installed. Exhibits will change more frequently. This will boost repeat visitation.

Verna Fairchild stated she has heard a lot of positive comments about the *Kentucky Military Treasures* exhibition from a variety of sources.

Tom Fugate asked if the exhibit will be displayed on both floors. Kent answered that it depends on where we are in the construction. The entire exhibit will not fit on just one level. The goal remains to have the building open in spring.

Clyde Green asked if we will be working with ADT. Trevor Jones answered that we will be consulting the KHS security administrator, Corky Mohedano. Ideally the security system will be tied to the Thomas D Clark Center for Kentucky History's system.

Evan Miller asked if the exhibits will maintain a timeline regardless of change. Trevor Jones noted that there are exhibits techniques that will allow us to place exhibits in context. Edward Coffman recommended a sign that places each case in context.

Willis McKee Collection

Tony Curtis and Bill Bright announced the recent acquisition of the Dr. Willis McKee collection. The collection includes several items from McKee's World War II service. Highlighted artifacts included a piece of the reserve parachute carried by McKee on D-Day and a piece of the Fight Falcon glider.

Old/New Business

KHS Strategic Plan

Kent Whitworth introduced the newly adopted KHS Strategic Plan. KHS boards and committees were involved in developing the plan. Verna Fairchild represented the KMHM Committee. Whitworth listed and described the intent of the four goals of the plan.

GOAL 1 - The KHS will be a significant resource fostering the production of historical works, the promotion of historical understanding, and history education.

GOAL 2 – The KHS will develop and strengthen statewide collaborative relationships that connect with and support key institutions and community activities.

GOAL 3 – The KHS will become a customer driven organization and implement marketing strategies that promote the use of KHS resources and services.

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GOAL 4 – The KHS will diversify and grow its funding and ensure the positive support from the State for long-term sustainability.

Whitworth noted that each outcome has funding sources, responsible parties, and target dates.

Marty Pinkston asked to have a copy sent to him via email.

Edward Coffman asked if we will have a gift shop in the Arsenal. Kent noted that was definitely a topic of discussion and was included in the KMHM Feasibility Study.

Status of KMHM Committee Appointments

Kent Whitworth updated the committee on the status of KMHM Committee appointments. He stated that KHS has been in contact with the governor's office and they expect to make an announcement soon.

Civil War Sesquicentennial

Stuart Sanders briefed the committee on the Civil War Sesquicentennial commission. He stated that the administration of the commission is attached to KHS. The commission is currently focused organizing itself and developing a committee structure. They are forming a legacy committee, education committee, and marketing committee. They are currently focusing on planning, heritage tourism, development issues and dealing with commemorative issues. The commission is also working to ensure that the commemoration of the Civil War is statewide. One project is to develop a timeline of events and matching communities programs with these anniversaries. The commission is an unfunded mandate.

KHS is aligning its current programming to the commemoration. A few of the projects include: new historic markers, an in-house speakers program, Museum-To-Go exhibits, working with Department of Tourism on a statewide trail, expanding our web presence, and bolstering Civil War programming at the Old State Capitol.

Marty Pinkston stated that lineage and honors often tie modern Kentucky National Guard units to Civil War regiments. He noted that the 2/123rd Armor's lineage went back to the Orphan Brigade. Pinkston suggested that these ties to the National Guard provide a natural connection to many communities in Kentucky. Steve Bullard added that the congressional delegation would also be interested in these connections.

War of 1812 Commission

Stuart Sanders also announced that the administrative responsibility for the War of 1812 commission is attached to KHS. The governor's office is in the process of appointing members to this commission. This commission is also an unfunded mandate.

Toyota Volunteer Program

Trevor Jones stated that Toyota is interested in volunteering at the Arsenal for a day of service. We are in negotiations to see if we can provide a project for them. We are pleased that they approached KHS to seek this opportunity and hope to develop a partnership in the future.

Date and Location of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the KMHM Committee will be held at the **Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History on October 5, at 1:00 p.m.**

The purpose of the board being met, the meeting was adjourned.